DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
2000 NAVY PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20350-2000

IN REPLY REFER TO
OPNAVINST 1540.51C
N87
24 July 1998

OPNAV INSTRUCTION 1540.51C

From: Chief of Naval Operations

Subj: SUBMARINE ON BOARD TRAINING (SOBT) PROGRAM

1. **Purpose**. To revise the Submarine On Board Training (SOBT) Program and delineate program responsibilities; to provide guidance and procedures to be used by commands designated to assess on board training requirements for all submarine systems.

2. **Cancellation**. OPNAV Instruction 1540.51B.

3. **Background**. The expense and planning associated with the introduction and support of modern on board training devices and the potential impact of those devices on fleet readiness require close coordination and cooperation for development and implementation between fleet users, cognizant commanders, and training/trainer acquisition activities. That type of symbiotic relationship will ensure that fleet readiness and training requirements are fully considered. In the past, a proliferation of on board training programs and materials were distributed and in some cases developed without the benefit of fleet input or control. That resulted in ineffective or redundant training which negatively impacted some on board training efforts. A standardization of the training development process and control over material dissemination was needed to produce quality on board training material that met the priority needs of the fleet. The Submarine Tactical On Board Training (STOBT) Program was established in 1986 to provide this standardization for tactical training. In 1989, the program was revised to increase the scope to include all SOBT excluding nuclear propulsion and strategic weapons systems and components. In 1994 the instruction was revised to expand the scope of the Submarine On Board Training   (A Program to include all areas of submarine on board training; specifically to include strategic weapons systems and propulsion plant. This revision to the instruction specifically establishes

that the SOBT Visual Information (VI) program will be managed as outlined in the effective Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU) between Chief of Naval Operations (CNO), Commander, Naval Sea Systems Command (COMNAVSEASYSCOM) and Commander, Submarine Group TWO (COMSUBGRU TWO), and that COMSUBGRU TWO is responsible for the training portion of all submarine Interactive Electronic Technical Manuals (IETM's).

R) 4. **Discussion**. The expanded program, which will continue to be called the Submarine On Board Training (SOBT) Program, is hereby established to provide for the coordinated, systematic, and centrally-controlled determination of training requirements; maintenance and distribution of training materials; and prioritization of fleet feedback.

R) 5. **Applicability**. This instruction applies to all classes of submarines and all aspects of submarine on board training.

6. **Program Responsibilities**

    a. <u>CNO</u>

       (1) Provides overall policy, guidance, and coordination for program goals.

       (2) Approves and provides program sponsorship for each new project.

       (3) Makes appropriate program submissions and supports the budgetary process, as necessary, to implement SOBT projects.

A)   b. <u>COMNAVSEASYSCOM Submarine Training Manager (SEA 92L1)</u>

       (1) Manages and executes all Submarine Training Programs, including the SOBT Program.

       (2) Develops planning and programming data for the SOBT Program.

       (3) Budgets for the SOBT Program.

A)   c. <u>COMNAVSEASYSCOM SOBT Program Manager (SEA 0423)</u>. As participating manager in support of COMNAVSEASYSCOM (SEA 92L1),

       (1) Develops SOBT Program Plans.

(2) Reviews SOBT products, including adherence to quality assurance measures established by the VI Productions MOU.

(3) Interfaces with CNO regarding VI production requests and adherence to CNO directives and policies.

(4) Directs SOBT tasking and funding to development contractors and activities.

(5) Executes SOBT Program Funding.

d. Acquisition Managers

(1) Maintain a single point of contact within the procurement organization providing coordinated support for SOBT Program.

(2) Ensure that Navy Training Plans for new equipment or systems address required on board training programs and that funding is identified to support SOBT.

(3) Procure on board training materials for new equipment and systems.

e. Chief of Naval Education and Training (CNET)

(1) Provides the primary point of contact for the shore-based training structure.

(2) Supports the integration of on board and shore-based training requirements and capabilities.

(3) Provides the primary point of contact for subordinate activities involved in the development of training materials under CNET control.

(4) Reviews SOBT materials as requested by COMSUBGRU TWO to ensure that formal curricula and SOBT materials are consistent and complementary.

(5) Includes instruction and use of SOBT in formal courses of instruction where follow-on use of SOBT materials will aid in reinforcement of formal instruction.

R)   f. Type Commanders (TYCOMs)

        (1) Provide primary program inputs concerning the near-term and long-range operational training goals and requirements.

        (2) Jointly approve all new projects recommended for development subject to CNO funding approval.

        (3) Establish fleet training requirements and training goals.

A)   (4) Participate in the review process for SOBT material under development to ensure that these products will satisfy valid fleet training needs.

        (5) Jointly approve all material/trainers for SOBT use before fleet installation.

    g. COMSUBGRU TWO

        (1) Acts as Commander Submarine Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet/Commander Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet (COMSUBLANT/COMSUBPAC) agent for SOBT.

        (2) Issues under TYCOM direction, all on board training materials.

        (3) Provides primary fleet point of contact for all SOBT related matters.

A)   (4) Supports CNO Undersea Warfare Training Committee as the representative for on board training.

        (5) Functions as the primary training material review and distribution approval authority. The review will include coordination with CNET training activities to ensure SOBT materials and formal training curricula are consistent and complementary.

        (6) Provides primary support and fleet liaison for the fleet introduction and implementation of training programs and material.

        (7) Provides support for the development and implementation of program policy.

(8) Recommends prioritized training requirements to TYCOMs for approval.

(9) Reviews and comments on training/trainer proposals related to SOBT.

(10) Provides day-to-day coordination between the procurement organization, the fleet and training commands.

(11) Ensures adequate quantities of SOBT material are provided to CNET training activities for use in formal and responsive training within the training command.

(12) Administer the SOBT Visual Information (VI) program   (R
as outlined in the effective MOU between CNO (N09C1), COMNAVSEA-SYSCOM (SEA 92L1) and COMSUBGRU TWO.

(13) Coordinates the review and approval of the training   (A
portion of all submarine IETM's as outlined in paragraphs 7d and 7e.

(14) Establishes training requirements, coordinates the review and approval of all training material associated with embedded submarine on board training systems as outlined in paragraphs 7d and 7e.

    h. Other Activities. All activities that produce on board training material which may be applicable for submarine use will provide a copy to COMSUBGRU TWO for SOBT Program review and approval. If the material is appropriate for expanded distribution to meet submarine training requirements, distribution and issuance will be provided within funding constraints.

7. **Action**. In order to ensure consistent training product development, subsequent review, approval, and issuance, a SOBT Program development process is established as follows:

    a. Requirement Phase. During this phase, the requirement for a specific on board training capability is established. Regardless of source of origin, every proposed on board training requirement will be forwarded to COMSUBGRU TWO for review.

    b. Requirement Prioritization. COMSUBGRU TWO will assess each on board training requirement with respect to (1) training

under development, and (2) the operational commander's perspective related to tactical and technical immediacy. Based on this assessment, COMSUBGRU TWO will prioritize the new requirement in relation to established requirements and recommend appropriate action to COMSUBPAC/COMSUBLANT.

c. Approval for Development. The TYCOM's prioritized, recommended development list will be presented to CNO for approval. CNO will request the procurement organization, as appropriate, to assign an acquisition manager for procurement of the approved training material including devices, trainers, books, etc.

d. Acquisition/Development. The appointed acquisition manager will take steps to procure the necessary training material to meet the training requirements, following the procedures outlined in the NAVSEA SOBT Program Management Plan. COMSUBGRU TWO will review the training material for adequacy, effectiveness, and adherence to the original requirement and submit comments as deemed appropriate. COMSUBGRU TWO will work closely with the material developer throughout the development stage, providing technical/tactical reviews and consultation and assisting in any way consistent with their designated responsibilities. The acquisition manager will maintain management control of training material procurement and development.

e. Distribution Approval. COMSUBGRU TWO will certify the technical/tactical accuracy of the material content when the format requirements have been met. COMSUBGRU TWO will then validate that the material will be effective in the on board training environment and approve it for distribution.

f. Fleet Distribution. COMSUBGRU TWO will direct distribution of material, as appropriate.

g. Program Maintenance

(1) All SOBT material and equipment will be supported by an adequate life-cycle maintenance capability. COMSUBGRU TWO will coordinate the life-cycle maintenance of all SOBT programs. Provision will be made for the maintenance of technical/tactical accuracy, the update and replacement of material, and the removal of program material when it is no longer required to support fleet training needs.

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(2) It is incumbent upon both the fleet and procurement activities to ensure the accuracy and effectiveness of program material. All concerns relative to material accuracy and effectiveness will be addressed to COMSUBGRU TWO for appropriate action.

M. I. FAGES
By direction

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SNDL   A5   (CHNAVPERS) (PERS-403)
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                 PMS392, PMS401, PMS425, PMS450)
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N87, N871, N872, N873, N874, N869, N879, N889